

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05813 271132Z

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PER-01 ABF-01 MMS-01 SP-02 /027 W

----- 072999

R 270929Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5157

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5813

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM CROSS

KUALA LUMPUR FOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, TH, HK

SUBJECT: VIETNAM WATCHING FROM HONG KONG

REF: STATE 122009

1. REFTTEL POSES THE QUESTION AS TO HOW USEFUL IT WOULD BE
TO ASSIGN A VIETNAM WATCHER TO CONGEN HONG KONG.

2. THE CONGEN, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN WATCHING NORTH VIETNAM
FOR YEARS. BOTH OVERT AND COVERT INTELLIGENCE HAS BEEN
OBTAINED FROM NEWSMEN BASED HERE, BUSINESSMEN PASSING THROUGH,
AND THIRD COUNTRY EMBASSY OFFICERS ON R & R IN HONG KONG.
IN THE NEW SITUATION, THESE CONTACTS COULD BE EXPANDED AND
NEW SOURCES ADDED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT HERE OF A PRG AND/OR
DRV CONGEN. PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT, NOW GOING ON, COULD BE
INCREASED. CONSEQUENTLY, WE FORESEE A CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION
OF MATERIALS AND INDIVIDUALS WE CAN TAP INTO HERE. AT THE
SAME TIME, WE WILL BE SPENDING MORE AND MORE EFFORT
REPORTING ON THE RELATION BETWEEN PRC FOREIGN POLICY
AND THE EMERGING FOREIGN POLICY OF VIETNAM. THE ATTITUDE
OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS TOLERANT AND COOPERATIVE
REGARDING INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYTICAL FUNCTIONS OF THIS
KIND WHICH MIGHT NOT BE THE CASE ELSEWHERE.

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3. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND AS VERY USEFUL THE ASSIGNMENT OF A VIETNAM POLITICAL SPECIALIST AT THE O-4/5 LEVEL, PREFERABLY WITH SOME ECONOMIC CREDENTIALS, FOR PERIPHERAL REPORTING ON VIETNAM FROM HONG KONG. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE VERY HIGH CURRENT RATIO OF REPORTING OFFICERS TO SECRETARIES, THE POST WOULD NEED ANOTHER SECRETARY TO GO ALONG WITH THE OFFICER.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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